**How severe is an insurance claim?**

When you’ve been devastated by a serious car accident, your focus is on the things that matter the most: family, friends, and other loved ones. Pushing paper with your insurance agent is the last place you want your time or mental energy spent. This is why [Allstate](https://www.allstate.com/), a personal insurer in the United States, is continually seeking fresh ideas to improve their claims service for the over 16 million households they protect.



Allstate is currently developing automated methods of predicting the cost, and hence severity, of claims. In this recruitment challenge, Kagglers are invited to show off their creativity and flex their technical chops by creating an algorithm which accurately predicts claims severity. Aspiring competitors will demonstrate insight into better ways to predict claims severity for the chance to be part of Allstate’s efforts to ensure a worry-free customer experience.

New to Kaggle? This competition is a recruiting competition, your chance to get a foot in the door with the hiring team at Allstate.

**Started:** 6:02 pm, Monday 10 October 2016 UTC   
**Ended:** 11:59 pm, Monday 12 December 2016 UTC (63 total days)   
**Points:** this competition awarded standard [ranking points](https://www.kaggle.com/wiki/UserRankingAndTierSystem)   
**Tiers:** this competition counted towards [tiers](https://www.kaggle.com/wiki/UserRankingAndTierSystem)

Each row in this dataset represents an insurance claim. You must predict the value for the 'loss' column. Variables prefaced with 'cat' are categorical, while those prefaced with 'cont' are continuous.